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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 62nd, 63rd, 68th and resumed 68th meetings, on 18 and 29 May and 26 June 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.62, 63, 68 and 68/Add.1).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/775 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/860/Add.4), together with a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/52/886).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.43

4. At the 68th meeting, on 29 May, the representative of Japan and coordinator of the informal consultations on item 130, on behalf of the Chairman, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus" (A/C.5/52/L.43) and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 11, the words "and the amount of _____ dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi" were deleted after the words "support account for peacekeeping operations";

(b) Operative paragraphs 15 and 16, which had read:

"[15. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all managers exercising financial responsibility are issued with the most current version of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;]

"[16. Further requests the Secretary-General to exercise utmost discipline in financial management to ensure compliance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, including rule 114.1]",

were deleted and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands orally amended the draft resolution by replacing footnote 2, which had read "A/52/860 and Add.4", by "A/52/860/Add.4", and by deleting the words "operational and substantive" before the word "requirements" in operative paragraph 7.

6. At its 68th meeting, on 29 May and 26 June, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.43, as orally revised and amended, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cyprus (see A/C.5/52/SR.68).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

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[1] A/52/775 and Add.1.

[2] A/52/860/Add.4.

Having considered also the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the termination benefits paid to the locally employed civilians in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964, by which the Council established the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1146 (1997) of 23 December 1997,

Recalling also its resolution 51/235 of 13 June 1997 on the financing of the Force,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force that are not covered by voluntary contributions are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force by certain Governments,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Expressing its appreciation to all those Member States and observer States which have made voluntary contributions to the Special Account established for the financing of the Force for the period prior to 16 June 1993,

Noting that voluntary contributions were insufficient to cover all of the costs of the Force, including those incurred by troop-contributing Governments prior to 16 June 1993, and regretting the absence of an adequate response to appeals for voluntary contributions, including that contained in the letter dated 17 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to all Member States,[4]

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

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[3] A/52/886, annex.

[4] S/1994/647.

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus as at 15 May 1998, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 15.3 million United States dollars, representing 13.2 per cent of the total assessed contributions from 16 June 1993 to the period ending 30 June 1998, notes that some 21.1 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

3. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

4. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

5. Takes note of the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

6. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to employ locally recruited staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

8. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus an amount of 602,900 dollars gross (647,400 dollars net), in addition to the amount of 45,079,500 dollars gross (43,049,600 dollars net) already appropriated for the Force under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/236 of 7 June 1996, for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to 215,800 dollars, by the Government of Cyprus;

9. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to 215,800 dollars, by the Government of Cyprus, to apportion among Member States the additional amount of 387,100 dollars gross (431,600 dollars net), taking into account the amount of 45,079,500 dollars gross (43,049,600 dollars net) already authorized under the terms of General Assembly resolution 50/236 for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A, B and C of

18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B and 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the years 1998 and 1999, as set out in its resolution 52/215 A of 22 December 1997;

10. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, shall take into consideration the decrease in their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 44,500 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997;

11. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus an amount of 45,276,160 dollars gross (43,536,860 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of an amount of 2,267,160 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations;

12. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to 14,512,300 dollars, by the Government of Cyprus and the annual pledge of 6.5 million dollars from the Government of Greece, to appropriate the amount of 24,263,860 dollars gross (22,524,560 dollars net), for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, to be apportioned among Member States at a monthly rate of 2,021,988 dollars gross (1,877,047 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 30 June 1998;

13. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 12 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,739,300 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

14. Expresses deep concern about the information in paragraph 31 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[3] regarding the memorandum of understanding which led to the payment by the United Nations of the termination benefits;

15. Decides to continue to maintain as separate the account established for the period prior to 16 June 1993 for the Force, invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to that account, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in appealing for voluntary contributions to the account;

16. Invites voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus".